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MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 16 July 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saint Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General*

I have the honour to draw your kind attention to the request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly entitled "Need to review General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971 owing to the fundamental change in the international situation and to the coexistence of two Governments across the Taiwan Strait" included in the letter dated 14 July 1997 from a number of Member States addressed to you (A/52/143 and Add.1 and 2), and to the draft resolution attached to it (ibid., annex I).

The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis is encouraged by the sincere and commendable steps undertaken by the Republic of China on Taiwan to enhance democracy with the necessary institutions and processes, and its determination to advance human rights and the equitable dispensation of justice.

Saint Kitts and Nevis acknowledges the sustained measures pursued by the Republic of China on Taiwan in the areas of politics and socio-economics, and their importance for the whole of Asia in terms of geopolitics, economics, security and long-term peace. The world community can ill afford to squander such progress. Therefore, attempts must be made to find and nurture common ground whereby the Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait can become appropriately integrated in a process that advances their interests. This augurs well for peace, not only in Asia but worldwide.

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Saint Kitts and Nevis notes the attendant challenges of the present situation and shares the appreciation that this requires the valuable contribution and broad-based participation of the States involved. However, it is incumbent on the international community to develop innovative ways to assist so that all can take part in the decision-making process on the multitude of issues that have an impact on their lives, thereby ensuring that their interests are adequately represented.

The Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis is optimistic that the solutions are attainable, but recognizes that first there needs to be political will and goodwill if the basic aspirations of the Chinese people are to be advanced in a comprehensive manner.

Saint Kitts and Nevis would like to encourage the parties to engage in meaningful and renewed dialogue and to develop partnership and respect for each other despite differences that may exist on either side, recognizing that dialogue is key.

I have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 81.

(Signed) Kevin M. ISAAC
Chargé d'affaires